**INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL AND VETERINARY SCIENCE ACT AMENDMENT BILL 1978**

**Legislative Council, 8 March 1978, pages 2019-20**

Second reading

**The Hon. D. H. L. BANFIELD (Minister of Health)** obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Institute of Medical and Veterinary Science Act, 1937- 1974. Read a first time.

The Hon. D. H. L. BANFIELD: I move: That this Bill be now read a second time. It amends the Institute of Medical and Veterinary Science Act by deleting that provision which requires the institute to undertake work for the Royal Adelaide Hospital without cost. Under a new agreement between the Commonwealth and the State in relation to pathology services, the only way that the Commonwealth will accept the sharing of costs of pathology services undertaken by the Institute for recognised hospitals is if the Institute raises charges for those services. In particular, this means raising charges for work performed for the Royal Adelaide Hospital which is at present directly contrary to section 17 of the principal Act.

 Therefore, this measure, inter alia, amends section 17 of the Act, and the amendment is expressed to be deemed to have come into operation on the first of November, 1977, the date from which the institute was instructed to raise charges for performing services under section 17. There are also some minor amendments to the Act which involve only change in style. I ask leave to have the explanation of the clauses of the Bill inserted in Hansard without any reading it. Leave granted.

Explanation of Clauses Clause 1 is formal. Clause 2 states that this amendment shall be deemed to have come into operation on the first day of November, 1977. Clause 3 amends section 3 of the principal Act, the interpretation section, to strike out the definition of “Minister”. This is in line with current practice. Clauses 4 and 6 amend sections 5 and 19 of the principal Act to change references to the “Adelaide Hospital” to the “Royal Adelaide Hospital” which is the correct title. Clause 5 amends section 17 of the principal Act to allow the institute to charge the Royal Adelaide Hospital for services performed for it.

The Hon. M. B. DAWKINS secured the adjournment of the debate.

**INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL AND VETERINARY SCIENCE ACT AMENDMENT BILL 1978**

**Legislative Council, 14 March 1978, pages 2120-1**

Adjourned debate on second reading. (Continued from March 8. Page 2020.)

The Hon. M. B. DAWKINS: I support this short Bill which, like the previous Bill, results from an arrangement between the Commonwealth and the States. The Bill makes necessary amendments to the principal Act, which began in 1937. Honourable members will be well aware that the institute has done very valuable work over the years in the fields of human health and primary production. The council of the institute, if I remember correctly, consists of a nominee of the Health Commission, two members of the Board of Management of the Royal Adelaide Hospital, two people nominated by the Council of the Adelaide University, one primary producer, and one veterinary surgeon. That board has done a great deal of valuable work over the years. The Minister’s second reading explanation states:

Under a new agreement between the Commonwealth and the State in relation to pathology services, the only way that the Commonwealth—

Is the Commonwealth being blamed again by the State Government?—

will accept the sharing of costs of pathology services undertaken by the institute for recognised hospitals is if the institute raises charges for those services.

This means setting a charge for services performed for the Royal Adelaide Hospital which services, up to the present, in accordance with section 17 of the principal Act, the institute has been required to provide free of charge. As the Minister said, the main purpose of the Bill is to strike out section 17 (1) (b), which provides:

(b) Furnishing the Adelaide Hospital and any Minister of the Crown (without cost to the Hospital or Minister) such services in pathology, bacteriology and bio-chemistry and other allied sciences as the Board of Management of the Adelaide Hospital or the Minister requires:

Also, one or two consequential amendments are made to section 17 (2). Further, the definition of “Minister” is struck out by clause 3. This is in line with current practice, with which I do not necessarily agree. Clauses 4 and 6 change references to the “Adelaide Hospital”, as it was known in 1937, to the “Royal Adelaide Hospital”. This necessary Bill brings the work of the institute into line with the arrangements made between the Commonwealth and the State. I therefore support the Bill.

 The Hon. D. H. L. BANFIELD (Minister of Health): I thank the honourable member for the attention he has given to the Bill. In his query as to whether the Commonwealth is being blamed, is the honourable member suggesting that the State, which has entered into an agreement with the Commonwealth for cost sharing, should pay the whole of the charges for pathology provided by the institute for the Royal Adelaide Hospital—a sizeable sum? He says the Commonwealth is getting the blame for something that the Commonwealth has put its name to. It is prepared for cost sharing in regard to the Royal Adelaide Hospital. What insinuation is the Hon. Mr. Dawkins making? Are we not allowed to say that the Commonwealth wants to honour its agreement?

The honourable member sees something sinister about it, because the Commonwealth wants to abide by the agreement. The honourable member does not mind saying that the State should do this and do that out of its limited resources yet, when we introduce a Bill to enable the Commonwealth to carry out its side of the agreement, the honourable member is not happy about it. I am surprised at his statement, but I thank the honourable member for the interest he has shown in the Bill.

Bill read a second time and taken through its remaining stages.